

# Asthma:

## An Environmental Medicine Issue



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### Grand Rounds

#### Occupational Asthma with Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation in a Diamond Polisher

A diamond polisher developed occupational asthma as a result of prolonged exposure to various asthma-inducing agents. Although the patient was seen by medical professionals, there were no attempts to establish a possible causal relationship between his work and his exposures.

E. Wilk-Rivard and J. Szeinuk, *EHP*, vol. 109, no. 12, December 2001

#### Modeling of Exposure to Carpet-Cleaning Chemicals Preceding Irritant-Induced Asthma in One Patient

A 42-year-old woman experienced an acute asthma attack, seizures, and unconsciousness immediately after a carpet-cleaning job was conducted in her home. Asthmatics and carpet-cleaning companies should be advised about safety during carpet-cleaning operations.

R.M. Lynch, *EHP*, vol. 108, no. 9, September 2000

#### Occupational Asthma and Contact Dermatitis in a Spray Painter after Introduction of an Aziridine Cross-Linker

A 23-year-old spray painter developed contact dermatitis and respiratory difficulty characterized by small airway obstruction. This case illustrates the importance of using appropriate work practices and personal protective equipment to minimize exposure.

C. T. Leffler and D. K. Milton, *EHP*, vol. 107, no. 7, July 1999

#### Cockroach Allergy and Asthma in a 30-Year-Old Man

A 30-year-old man presented with asthma and a cockroach allergy. The pathophysiology, epidemiology, and clinical features of cockroach-allergic asthma are reviewed, and an approach to diagnosis and management is suggested.

G. T. O'Connor and D. R. Gold, *EHP*, vol. 107, no. 3, March 1999

#### Violence: An Unrecognized Environmental Exposure that May Contribute to Greater Asthma Morbidity in High Risk Inner-City Populations

Exigencies of inner-city living can increase risk factors that confer increased asthma morbidity. The authors describe a series of cases that exemplify an association between exposure to violence and the precipitation of asthma exacerbations.

R. J. Wright and S. F. Steinbach, *EHP*, vol. 109, no. 10, October 2001

### Research

#### Asthma in the United States: Burden and Current Theories

Asthma has emerged as a major public health problem in the United States over the past 20 years. The number of asthma cases has more than doubled since 1980.

S. C. Redd, *EHP Supplements*, vol. 110, no. 4, October 2002

#### Work-Related Asthma and Implications for the General Public

Work-related asthma has become the most frequently diagnosed occupational respiratory illness. Occupational asthma often has important long-term adverse health and economic consequences but can resolve completely with timely control of exposures.

E. L. Petsonk, *EHP Supplements*, vol. 110, no. 4, October 2002

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